



Andrew Tobiason

Global Conservation Expert

Global conservation program manager with 20+ years of experience developing rights-based, cross-sectoral and public-private partnerships for nature, especially socially responsible protected area strengthening and comprehensive responses to natural resource crime.

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[Linkedin](#)

[Contact](#)

23 Years of experience

Professional Bio:

Mr. Tobiason has 23 years of experience advancing biodiversity conservation in ecologically rich and often conflict-affected places. As a strategic thinker and creative problem solver, he has helped governments, businesses, industry associations, NGOs, and community organizations to conserve nature with impact, accountability and resilience.

Much of Andrew's expertise was developed during 17 years at USAID, where he provided technical assistance and oversight to about 15 percent of the Agency's \$365

Skills & Expertise:

International Development;
Diplomacy & Foreign Affairs;
Climate & Environment;
Legal & Regulatory Reform;
Democracy & Governance;
Human Rights

Sectors of Work:

Program/Project
Management; Grants
Management; Policy
Development; Localization /
Capacity Strengthening;
Other: Social Safeguards,
Land and Resource Rights,

million biodiversity portfolio. He facilitated efforts by Mission colleagues to address any threat affecting ecosystems in West, Central and Southern Africa, and advised colleagues in any country on strategies for combating wildlife trafficking. Andrew also managed central partnerships to conserve transboundary landscapes, strengthen collective action to combat wildlife crime, advance conservation as a public health approach, support environmental defenders, and promote transparency and traceability of timber, seafood, and forest-risk commodities.

As a principal advisor to USAID's \$75 million Combating Wildlife Trafficking portfolio, Andrew helped staff and partners design solutions to challenges along the criminal supply chain, from poacher to consumer. Because this work often strengthened enforcement by police and protected area managers, Andrew provided guidance and training on human rights vetting, grievance and redress mechanisms, and other social safeguards to protect vulnerable people from abuses of power and rights. Drawing on his experience facilitating the Conservation Standards and former role as monitoring lead, he led development of the Agency's most downloaded conservation learning product, "Measuring Efforts to Combat Wildlife Crime," and promoted its use for design and adaptive management.

Foreign assistance is stovepiped but biodiversity loss requires a multidisciplinary response, so Andrew mobilized colleagues from three bureaus to establish USAID's Health, Ecosystems and Agriculture for Resilient, Thriving societies (HEARTH) program. From 2019 to 2025, HEARTH generated 17 cross-sectoral partnerships, in which \$75 million in Agency funds from a variety of sectors leveraged more than \$90 million in private sector commitments. The Steering Committee Andrew chaired supported "HEARTHS" with messaging, learning, monitoring, and impact

Indigenous Peoples;
Monitoring, Evaluation, and
Learning (MEL); Proposal
Writing; Stakeholder
Engagement; Climate &
Resilience; Private Sector
Engagement; Strategic
Planning; Conflict &
Stabilization

Languages Spoken:

English, French

evaluation.

Andrew led Division communications for six years and was a principal writer, editor, and sector representative throughout his tenure. He prepared six reports for the U.S. Congress, delivered guidance and training for environment officers, frequently briefed legislators and their staff, drafted speeches for leadership, represented USAID in interagency meetings and public events, and led engagement at Conferences of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and other policy fora.

Prior to USAID, Mr. Tobiason led knowledge management for a coalition of environmental NGOs, then served as Assistant Director for an organization that used local language films to promote conservation-compatible choices in rural Central Africa. While completing his Master in Environmental Management at Duke University, Andrew had his first exposure to M&E designing and analyzing course evaluations in the university's Office of Assessment. Other formative experiences include an internship supporting community forest heritage in Maine, a summer studying wild lemurs in the "spiny desert" of Madagascar, and three years taking care of animals and volunteers at the Duke Lemur Center.



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